(Ireland.)

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Commissioners of Education, in *Ireland*, for the Year ending 25th March 1833.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY HENRY WILLIAM MARQUIS OF ANGLESEY,
KNIGHT OF THE MOST NOBLE ORDER OF THE GARTER,
LORD LIEUTENANT GENERAL,
AND GENERAL GOVERNOR OF IRELAND.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the 3d, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the proceedings of the Board, from the 25th day of March 1832 to the 25th day of March 1833.

DUNGANNON. In our Report of last year, we stated to your Excellency that the estates of the Royal School of Dungannon, which had been held for a long series of years by different lessees, in trust for the masters of the school, had by the expiration of a lease made in the year 1811, been placed under the immediate management of this Board, and we have now the satisfaction of reporting to your Excellency, that very considerable improvement has been effected within a very short period, both in the condition of the tenantry and the appearance of their farms; a spirit of industry having been excited amongst them, which has had the effect of preventing the occupiers of those lands from participating in the tumultuous proceedings which have taken place in their immediate neighbourhood; and although partial opposition to the plans of the agent, whose conduct in the management of the estate has been most judicious, was at one time threatened, it has been altogether counteracted by his prudence and determination; and we have to notice that a considerable tract of land has been recovered to the school property by the adjustment of a disputed mearing, the unsettled state of which had for many years been a constant source of contention and violence amongst the occupying tenants of the estates of the school, and of a neighbouring proprietor. It is expected that the income of this school will be considerably increased after the settings of the lands shall have been fully completed, and the extra expenditure which has been considered necessary to be made, as well for the improvement of the lands as in works beneficial to the estate, shall have ceased, and the statutable charge of 629 *l.* 14 *s.* 5 *d.* which must be paid to the representatives of the late master, Dr. Dowdall, for buildings and improvements on the school lands, (being three-fourths of the sum of 909 *l.* 12 *s.* of the late currency, paid by him to his predecessor,) shall have been liquidated. And we have to observe that it is intended, when the income of the school shall increase, to employ a portion of that increase in the maintenance of scholars on the foundation, and in exhibitions.

ARMAGH. We have also to report to your Excellency, that the attention of the Board has been directed to the improvement of the estates belonging to the Royal School of Armagh, which by the falling in of a lease formerly made, long before this Board existed, have since the date of our last Report also come to the immediate possession of this Board; and as an increase to the income of this school is also expected, under the careful management of the land agent, it has been resolved that a portion of it shall be allocated to the support of a lending library of books of classical criticism, to be attached to the school for the use of candidates for the exhibitions, and a further yearly sum of 25 *l.* has been lately appropriated by the Commissioners of Education to the endowment of an exhibition to Trinity College, Dublin, in addition to the former exhibitions for this school.

ENNISKILLEN. The improvement of the estates belonging to the Royal School of Enniskillen has also particularly engaged the attention of the Board. We have to report that from amongst the foundation scholars of this school, a selection has been made of

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one scholar as an exhibitioner, who had been admitted to Dublin College under the rank of a fellow-commoner, and who will be entitled to receive as such exhibitioner, during the term of five years from the date of his appointment, a sum of 40 *l.* per annum, unless he shall become disqualified by non-compliance with the rules made by the Board, and noticed in some of the former Reports.

CARYSFORT. We have also to report to your Excellency, that the School of Carysfort, to which a master was appointed by your Excellency in the month of August last, has been opened for the reception of scholars under the resident master; and as this school is a large one, and chiefly resorted to by children of the lower orders of the people, it is the intention of the Board to grant an ample and liberal supply of books and stationery, &c. for the use of the scholars, so as to ensure to them that instruction which the poverty of their parents might otherwise place beyond their reach.

Out of the funds of these Royal Schools there has been expended since our last Report a sum of 904 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.* on repairs of the different school-houses, and on such works as appeared absolutely necessary; and there has been paid into the Bank of Ireland, to the credit of the Teller of His Majesty's Exchequer, a sum of 144 *l.* 1 *s.* 2 *d.*, being the amount of the second and third instalment of the loan advanced under the provisions of the Act of the 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, and 4 Geo. 4, c. 79, for enlarging and repairing the school-house of Raphoe; and we beg leave to state, that this Board, pursuant to the provisions of the Act 2d & 3d of His present Majesty, have signified the wish of the Commissioners of Education to undertake the payment of the composition for tithes which may be chargeable on the lands belonging to the Royal Schools of Armagh, Dungannon and Enniskillen.

CAVAN. The Royal School of Cavan is the least effective of all the Royal Schools, which may be attributed to the great age of the master, and to an agreement made on his appointment several years ago, between him and the then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which is, by a clause in the Act under which this Board is constituted, made valid and binding, and was at the time it was formed probably considered beneficial to the establishment.

MIDLETON. In continuation of our Report of last year respecting the proceedings by informations in Chancery against the tenants of the school lands of Midleton, we beg leave to inform your Excellency, that His Majesty's Attorney-general, in an opinion on a case laid before him for his advice, whether the decision of the Lord Chancellor in the information cause which had been brought to a hearing against one of the tenants, should be acquiesced in or appealed against, having expressed his unwillingness to advise an appeal, and his wish that the case should be submitted to some eminent counsel of the English bar, who should be supplied with an accurate note of the Lord Chancellor's judgment, and that this Board should be guided by the opinion so to be taken; a copy of the Attorney-general's opinion was forwarded to the Right Hon. E. G. Stanley, then Chief Secretary of State for Ireland, it having been considered by the Board that the sanction of the Government should be obtained before any further proceedings should be taken in the cause, as the costs of an appeal would have to be defrayed out of the Consolidated Fund in the event of the Lord Chancellor's decision being confirmed, the present income of the school being altogether inadequate to the payment even of the costs before incurred, and Mr. Stanley having in a letter to the Board stated, that although your Excellency did not think that it was a case on which the Government should give directions, yet that the advice of the Attorney-general to refer the case to an eminent Chancery lawyer in England, and to be guided by his opinion as to the expediency of prosecuting an appeal seemed judicious, a case containing an accurate note of the Lord Chancellor's judgment was accordingly submitted to Sir Edward Sugden, who after a consultation with Mr. Lynch, an English barrister, considered it to be a proper case for an appeal, and advised that the decree of the Lord Chancellor should not be acquiesced in; and we beg leave to add, that that opinion being shown to the Attorney-general, and he having advised that it was incumbent on the Commissioners to appeal, and that they could not submit to the decree, the Board have caused a petition of appeal to be prepared, and after having been approved of by the Attorney-general, to be presented to the House of Lords against the Lord Chancellor's decree, which appeal is now depending.

NAVAN and BALLYROAN. We have to report to your Excellency, in relation to the Schools of Navan and Ballyroan, that the claims of the Blue-Coat Hospital upon the funds in bank to the credit of those schools, the particulars of which have been stated in former Reports, remain unadjusted, notwithstanding that several overtures on the part of this

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this Board have been made for a reference to arbitration; but the agents of the Blue-Coat Hospital having sought to have the account brought down to a period later than that to which the rents of the estate had been received, it became necessary to postpone the settlement until the Receiver in the cause in Chancery, long depending in respect of these schools, shall have accounted to the latest period that the rules of the Court of Chancery will admit of; but we hope, that as soon as the Receiver's account shall have been passed, which is now in progress in the Master's Office, that an amicable settlement will take place in respect of the claims of the Blue-Coat Hospital, which will enable the Board, after discharging those claims, to appropriate the fund remaining, to the credit of the schools of Navan and Ballyroan respectively, in such manner as will give full effect to the charitable intentions of the founder.

CLONMEL.

We have further to report to your Excellency, that of the loan which was advanced from the Consolidated Fund, for the new school-house lately erected at Clonmel, the Commissioners have caused the second instalment in repayment, amounting to 240 *l.*, to be lodged to the credit of the Teller of the Exchequer.

DIOCESAN and DISTRICT SCHOOLS.

Lastly, in respect of the Diocesan and District Schools, we beg leave to state to your Excellency, that it has been found impracticable to make any further progress towards their *general* establishment, the Board having had the same difficulties to encounter during the last year, as were noticed in our Reports for the years 1831 and 1832; and we more particularly allude to the circumstances therein detailed, respecting the district school of Limerick, Killaloe and Kilfenora, and request your Excellency's attention to this circumstance, that in spite of all the exertions of this Board, the sum of 1,400*l.* late currency, presented for the foundation of this school by the Grand Jury of the county of Limerick, is still permitted to remain, as it has been for some years, in the hands of the treasurer of the county of Limerick, interest free, in consequence of a detainer laid on it by grand juries, as before reported by this Board; and we beg leave most respectfully to observe, that unless the Act under which the Board was constituted be amended in the manner suggested to your Excellency in the said Reports, we apprehend that any proceedings on the part of the Board, as to the further establishment of these schools, must prove altogether abortive.

Finally, we beg leave most respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to another part of our Report for the year 1831, in which the propriety of altering the constitution of this Board, so far as to dispense with the necessary attendance, at their general meetings, of a Commissioner, appointed in right of his office, was submitted for your Excellency's consideration; and we beg leave to add, that the difficulty of procuring the attendance of any three Commissioners, to transact even the most ordinary business of the Board, will, we apprehend, be further increased by the circumstance, that it is doubtful, since the passing of the Act which gave an additional Member to the University of Dublin, whether both or either of the *two* Members is or are now entitled to sit and vote, and exercise the functions assigned to *the Member* for the University, by the 3 Geo. 4, c. 79. We therefore hope that your Excellency will take into your consideration the propriety of recommending such an amendment of the Act of the 53 Geo. 3, c. 107, as will provide a remedy in respect of the matters to which we now have taken the liberty of pointing your Excellency's attention, as well as those noticed in the Reports we have alluded to.

Board of Education Office,
Dublin, 26 April 1833.

Wm. C. Quin,
Secretary.

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EDUCATION, IRELAND.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONERS,

Pursuant to Act 53 Geo. III. c. 107, s. 8.

1833.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, *to be Printed,*
10 *March* 1834.

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